

Experimental Sites Examiner

Summer, 2003

Summer In-Tern



The Federal Student Aid Internship Program has 31 summer interns. The School Relations Division is pleased to have David Muraskin as our summer intern. He works closely with the Experimental Sites Initiative.

And now, here's David....

Hi, my name is David Muraskin. I have just finished my second year at the University of Chicago where I am most likely concentrating in Political Science and Social Thought. During my tenure I have written for and run one of the two campus student newspapers and next year I will be taking over the role of Assistant Resident Head (the University's version of a R.A.).

Although this will be my first time working for the Federal government, I do have some experience functioning in bureaucracy, as I interned with the United Nations when I was in high school.

Although I now spend 9 months of the year in Chicago, I am an east coast native. I grew up in New York City,



Manhattan, and my parents currently reside in Philadelphia.

After college I plan on continuing with my education, either obtaining a doctorate or law degree. I am fascinated by government and the law. My hope is that my education will allow me to impact people's lives and the way society functions, either through direct litigation/legislation or academic research. This is one of the main reasons that I am so excited to be working for Federal Student Aid and particularly the Experimental Sites Initiative. Student Aid is one program that every student can relate to, and Experimental Sites seems, at least to me, to be the logical outgrowth of a desire to improve government services through reforming public policy. Thus, this job combines my passions and interests.

I look forward to finding out more about the work that the X-Sites schools do as my internship continues.

The X-Sites Website!!!

The Experimental Sites Initiative is online! The website is temporarily housed on the Department's server while development on IFAP is completed. The website both publicizes the "experiments" of the Initiative and provides resources for participating schools.

When accessing the website schools can
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learn about the expectations and benefits of participating and see if they qualify to join the Initiative by proposing an experiment of interest to the school and their students to do things differently.

In addition, schools searching for more information about the Experiment Sites Initiative can read comments of participating schools. The 2002-03 updated report templates and "Data Dictionary" will be available at this site the first week of October. In the near future, we are hoping to add a section devoted to electronic proposal submission and interactive report templates.

To access the website please go to: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/expsites/index.html> and remember to check back often because we will be continually working to up date it with new information about the Initiative.

If you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to send them to: Experimentalsites@ed.gov or contact Jackie Banister, at Jackie.Bannister@ed.gov.

Data Analysis Available



New "Comparative" Report
The analysis of the 2001-2002
Experimental Sites data conducted by

our contractor ORC Macro is complete!! This year we have not only considered the data provided to us by participating institutions, but also compared the data to non-participating peer institutions. This process has allowed us to gain a better sense of what impact each experiment has on a school's graduation, retention, withdrawal and default rates. We shared the outcomes with the Department to make better recommendations for changes to the financial aid statute/regulation(s). The final report will be available to the entire aid community soon, so keep a look out!

2002-2003 Annual Report Templates

Once again, a few of your colleagues have formed a workgroup to assist in the re-development of the data collection instrument. Specifically, we seek to more accurately define the goals and target populations for each experiment, and to re-write experiment specific questions, when necessary, to more properly assess the results of the experiments in the context of the stated goals.

Please **do not use** the report templates that are currently on the website. The new and improved templates **will be available** on the web at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/expsites/index.html> the first week of **October**. All participating schools are required to fill out a data sheet for each experiment that they conduct. The Annual Reports are due **November 1, 2003**.

Please have your report template(s) in on time.

Edited by Jacquelyn Bannister and David Muraskin